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(71) **Applicant** *(for all designated States except US)*: SMART INTERNET TECHNOLOGY CRC PTY LIMITED [AU/AU]; Bay 8, Suite 9/G12, Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh, NSW 1430 (AU).

(72) **Inventors; and**
(75) **Inventors/Applicants** *(for US only)*: LIU, Qiong [AU/AU]; 4/82 Collins Street, Corrimal, NSW 2518 (AU). SAFAVI-NAINI, Reihaneh [AU/AU]; School of

Information Technology and Computer Scie, nce, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW 2522 (AU). SHEPPARD, Nicholas, Paul [AU/AU]; School of Information Technology and Computer Scie, nce, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW 2522 (AU).
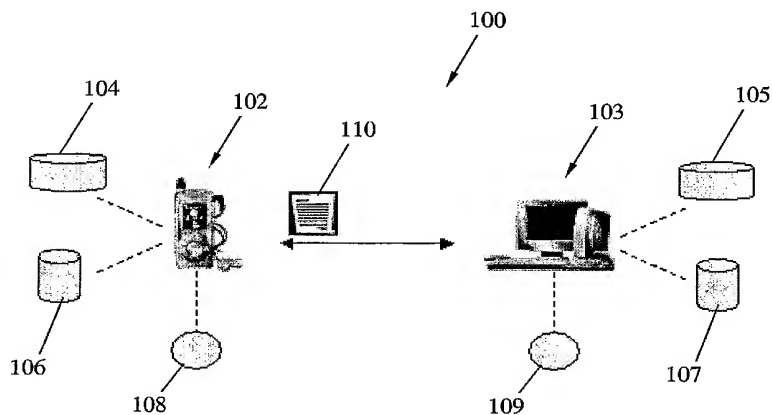
(74) **Agent:** WATERMARK PATENT & TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS; 290 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, VIC 3122 (AU).

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(54) **Title:** DIGITAL LICENSE SHARING SYSTEM AND METHOD

(57) **Abstract:** A digital license sharing method, system and apparatus is provided for use in a digital rights management system. Usage rights in respect of digital content are transferred between content player devices or applications by associating with each player a status indication. Transfer is carried out by transmitting a request to obtain the usage rights from a player requiring usage rights to a player currently holding the rights. The transferring player sets a first status indication to indicate that it is no longer entitled to exercise the rights, and transmits a response to the requesting player to transfer the usage rights. The requesting player then sets a second status indication to indicate that it is henceforth entitled to exercise the rights. Methods and apparatus for creating transferable licenses are also provided that employ a sharable license format including a validated portion and an unvalidated portion. The validated portion, which may be, for example, digitally signed by a license issuing authority, includes characteristic information of a digital content decryption key required to access the digital content controlled by the license. The unvalidated portion includes the digital content key itself, encrypted using an encryption key associated with a player entitled to use the license.

FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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